



March 11, 2015

**Governor's Bill Number 6848: AN ACT PROTECTING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Dear Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

The Connecticut Psychological Association (CPA) offers its **strong support** of **Governor's Bill Number 6848**. This bill requires relinquishment of a firearm within 24 hours of receipt by the gun owner of notice of a restraining order, protective order, or foreign order of protection.

Intimate partner violence is an act of power and control. When a victim seeks to end an abusive relationship, the abuser typically feels a loss of power and control, which often serves to escalate the abuser's rage and coercive behavior. The Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) reports a victim is most at risk for violence during the days following an attempt to end an abusive relationship and the filing of a restraining order. During this time, an abuser may resort to extreme measures to regain power and control over the victim.<sup>1</sup> Between 2000 and 2012, Connecticut averaged 14 annual intimate partner homicides; firearms were the most commonly used weapon in those deaths, with firearms being used in 39% of the cases.<sup>2</sup> "The majority of intimate partner homicides [70%] are preceded by years of abuse [of the victim by the abuser]."<sup>3</sup>

According to the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) 2009 Female Victims of Violence report, 70% of intimate partner homicide victims in 2007 were female, and this percentage has remained stable since 1993. In addition, intimate partners were responsible for approximately 45% of all female homicides in 2007. According to the BJS, a spouse or ex-spouse was responsible in 24% of all female homicides, and a significant other was responsible in an additional 21% of all female homicides in 2007.

The American Bar Association reports almost two-thirds of females killed with a firearm in 2002 were killed by their intimate partners, and "[t]he number of females shot and killed by their husband or intimate partner was more than three times higher than the total number murdered by male strangers using all weapons combined in single victim/single offender incidents in 2002."<sup>4</sup> Finally, the John's Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for Gun Policy and Research "Intimate Partner Violence and Firearms Fact Sheet", reports that nationally, over 55% of intimate partner homicides involve the use of a gun.<sup>5</sup>

Accordingly, CPA **urges your support of Governor's Bill Number 6848**.

  
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Director of Professional Affairs

<sup>1</sup> Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV), Policy Brief (December 2014), citing Campbell, J.C. et al., Risk factors for femicide in abusive relationships: Results from a multisite case control study, 93 *Am. J. Pub. Health* 1089, 1092 (July 2003), citing Campbell, (2003).

<sup>2</sup> Campbell, J.C. et al., (2003).

<sup>3</sup> CCADV Policy Brief (2014), quoting Campbell, JC, et al., "Intimate Partner Homicide: Review and Implications of Research and Policy." *Trauma, Violence & Abuse*. (8)3:246-247 (2007).

<sup>4</sup> ABA Commission on Domestic & Sexual Violence, [http://www.americanbar.org/groups/domestic\\_violence/resources/statistics.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/domestic_violence/resources/statistics.html), citing The Violence Pol'y Ctr., *When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2002 Homicide Data: Females Murdered by Males in Single Victim/Single Offender Incidents*, at 7 (2004), available at <http://www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2004.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Bailey JE, Kellermann AL, Somes GW, Banton JG, Rivara FP, Rushforth NP. Risk factors for violent death of women in the home. *Archives of Internal Medicine*. 1997;157(7):777-782.